

PUBLIC EDUCATION & TRAINING PLAN

OCTOBER 15, 1999 REPORT

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Prepared by: Office of Community Corrections

Michigan Department of Corrections

Office of Community Corrections

Public Education & Training Plan for Fiscal Year 2000

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction

The Fiscal Year 1999 Public Education and Training Plan included quarterly training on sentencing guidelines, criminal justice system mapping, relapse prevention, cognitive change, and the annual conference focused on the recently completed independent evaluation and correctional interventions and strategies that work. Quarterly training usually has 50 to 100 each in attendance, while the annual conference has 200. The criminal justice participants come mostly from community corrections advisory boards, service providers and probation/parole staff. During the last fiscal year, more probation/parole staff attended community corrections act-sponsored training than ever before.

The office promoted the use of video tapes developed through the State Justice Institute-sponsored ***Intermediate Sanctions Video Project***, which involved both the National Institute of Corrections and the Center for Effective Public Policy. Every local advisory board manager received the preview tape related to this project for local public education strategies. Some areas used all/part of the four seminar-six video tape sets to engage criminal justice stakeholders in policy and program discussions. One county commented about the tapes as follows: “The video tape series was a super launch pad for us. It was the right tool for us at this point in time. The cooperative work which this committee did was really unprecedented . . . , as noted by a county commissioner . . .”

Due to the independent evaluation conducted pursuant to P.A. 321 of 1998, § 804 (4), and the need for the State Community Corrections Board and the department to review the evaluation recommendations, the office tabled development of a community corrections manual. Instead, it acquired two “What Works” texts, ***Strategic Solutions: The International Community Corrections Association Examines Substance Abuse***, edited by Edward Latessa, Ph.D., and ***Research to Results: Effective Community Corrections***, edited by Patricia M. Harris, Ph.D., in sufficient quantity so that each local advisory board manager and field operations administrators and area managers receive them as a reference tool for further reviewing correctional strategies that work.

The Plan

Pursuant to P.A. 92 of 1999, § 804 (3), the office has produced a public education and training plan to address objectives, issues, audiences, and messages for community corrections in Fiscal Year 2000. The plan supports annual and quarterly training, and the initial development of a community corrections manual (content subject to State Community Corrections Board recommendations and department decisions related to the independent

evaluation), and continued technical assistance to local advisory boards to build upon training received last year and planned for Fiscal Year 2000. The overall plan is subject to changes made in cooperation with the State and Local Training Committee (mostly community corrections managers). The office will assist community corrections managers to apply the training in implementing local comprehensive corrections plans.

Objectives

The office will continue to help local jurisdictions achieve these objectives for Fiscal Year 2000:

- Continue to train local advisory boards and other criminal justice professionals on pertinent community corrections issues, including correctional interventions and policies that work.
- Improve and strengthen cooperation between local advisory boards, probation and the judiciary.
- Continue to provide statewide and jurisdictional technical assistance.

Substantive Issues

The office will work with CCAB's to address three substantive issue areas for Fiscal Year 2000:

Monitor Impact from Criminal Justice Policy Changes

The office will continue to monitor and provide technical assistance related to the impact resulting from policy changes in sentencing guidelines and target populations; jail reimbursement; probation violation response guidelines and sanctioning options; and sentencing recommendation guidelines and sentencing options. During the past fiscal year, the State Community Corrections Board established an Ad Hoc SGL Committee to monitor the impact due to changes in sentencing guidelines, and other laws that may impact prison commitments and jail utilization. Several local reviews projected implications of the statutory sentencing guidelines to their specific jurisdictions.

Strengthen Cooperation Within Community Corrections Network

The office will continue to provide technical assistance to local advisory boards to facilitate further cooperation and communication by the members of the local community corrections network. This includes members of the boards with staff from the offices of probation, the prosecutor, the court, the sheriff and defense counsel.

Ongoing Technical Assistance

The office will continue to provide technical assistance, particularly in these three areas:

- Data Analysis - How to Use State & Local Data for Comprehensive Planning
- Evaluation of Programs to Improve Programming & Implementation Strategies
- Quality Assurance - Contract Provisions

Target Audiences

The office will work with CCAB's to foster public education efforts consistent with the needs of their local community. Public education target audiences may include, but not be limited to:

- Criminal Justice System including Probation/Parole, Judiciary, Attorneys, Courts, Law Enforcement, Correctional Institutions
- Community Service Providers & Professional Organizations
- Media
- Public
- Community Corrections Advisory Boards
- Offenders & Their Families
- Business Community
- Community Service Agencies & Organizations
- Government Officials
- Local and State Elected Officials
- Schools & Universities
- Religious Community

Key Messages

Public education efforts for community corrections may use media opportunities, speeches, brochures, and other publications. The purpose is to demonstrate how community supervision programs have become successful alternatives to incarceration, in Michigan and nationally. These efforts demonstrate that community corrections:

- Is Cost-effective
- Punishes Offenders
- Reduces Crime Rates
- Promotes Safe & Successful Programs
- Involves Citizens in the Criminal Justice System
- Eases Jail & Prison Overcrowding

THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING PLAN

Annual Conference and Quarterly Training

The office plans to continue jointly developed annual conference and quarterly/regional training using experts in fields germane to the operation, management and use of community corrections policies and programs. The State and Local Training Committee will continue to meet to develop the training for the year and to seek technical assistance resources from National Institute of Corrections and other agencies/organizations to augment the public education and training line item.

Community Corrections Advisory Board Manual

The office will work with community corrections to develop the initial portion of a training manual that local advisory board managers and their staff can use as a reference tool to improve implementation of community corrections policies and programs based on the principles of effective correctional interventions and other proven evidence-based correctional practices.

What Works Strategies

Consistent with recommendations made by the State Community Corrections Board and adopted by the department, the office will provide technical assistance and develop with community corrections stakeholders:

- Effective plans/strategies to implement correctional policies, programs and practices that work;
- Public education messages to deliver to criminal justice stakeholders and citizens about the principles of effective intervention for appropriate offender populations;
- Means in which to establish/adopt and utilize offender risk and needs assessments;
- Methods to improve targeting and matching of offenders to programs, including service delivery personnel, and interventions available within community corrections, including probation/parole;
- Improved capacity to collect and use data for assessing and evaluating pilot programs and policies, with the aim of modeling those evidence-based practices where feasible within the state.